

I'm not a bot



Maximized Manhood(Revised Verision|Edwin Louis ColeISBN: 978-1-61842-401-3Dedicated to my wife, Nancy, the loveliest lady in the land, and to Paul, Judi, Rick, Lois, and Joann.In appreciation to the men who love truth and made this book possible... Alan, Doyle, Jim, Ben, Rick, and Earl.ContentsPreface for the New EditionForeword by Ben KinchlowChapter 1 Maximum SentenceChapter 2 Kept Out of CanaanChapter 3 The Playboy ProblemChapter 4 Moses and the Ten InvitationsChapter 5 There is a Hole in the DoorChapter 6 Tender and ToughChapter 7 Is There a Priest in the House?Chapter 8 The One Dollar TipChapter 9 Changing HeadsChapter 10 The Buck Stops HereChapter 11 The Video DaddyChapter 12 Our Father, Which Act Inactive?Chapter 13 Stop, Look, ListenChapter 14 Born-Again MarriageChapter 15 Whats The Question?Chapter 16 Adult BoysChapter 17 Its the HeartChapter 18 Take It to the Cross!Chapter 19 Thats My Dad!Chapter 20 Burn Out Dont Fade OutEpilogue Majoring in MenPreface for the New EditionMillions of men have read this book in the form it was first published in 1982. When I was asked to update it, I left it in its original form, except for minor editing I wished I had done before printing. In addition I have added some chapters that not only validated what was written originally but gave expanded revelation and deeper meaning to the truth that Manhood and Christlikeness are synonymous.Foreword by Ben KinchlowThere is a very interesting phenomenon occurring in America. From birth to late teens, a childso overwhelming perception of authority figures is nearly 100% female, with an occasional male making a generally ineffectual appearance.In the hospital, female nurses are responsible for almost every aspect of childcare. At home, mother is usually the dominant authority figure. And, 90% of the teachers in grade school areyote guys otw women. The first police person a child meets is more than likely a female crossing guard.; When a child goes to the movies, the grocery store, department stores, fast food restaurants, fancy sit-down restaurants, vacation Bible school or Sunday school, who sells the tickets, takes the orders, collects the money, shows you where to sit, tells you what to wear, to clean up your room, who spends the money, who pays the bills? In other words, whos really in charge? Is it any wonder that todays young man is making every effort to demonstrate that hes a real manlike MOM.So, todays man may wear jewelrybracelets, necklaces, and perhaps, an earring. He has long hair, and wears tight shirts opened to display cleavage. Or, he may be a macho man who acts irresponsibly with his wife and children, or who indulges in sexual freedom and does his own thing.In any case, man is liberated. Or, so hes been told by feminist principleswhich undercut his position as a male.At the same time, women are wearing shorter haircuts, masculine pants and suits and in some cases, neckties. In an attempt to assert their true selves or punish their oppressors, many women have allowed suppressed rage or self-hatred to erupt into violence against the men they perceive as being at fault.Men and women, not knowing exactly who they are or what their respective roles are, are confused and anxiety ridden.There is a psychology called muddling. Men often will not make a clear-cut decision on, or commitment to, anything; they just muddle through. Since nature abhors a vacuum, women have been sucked into the areas that men have abandoned. As a result, men, women, and children are angry and frustrated and, in increasing numbers, facing an identity crisis.Into the middle of the muddle, like a stinging slap in the midst of hysteria, a gauntlet slammed down in challenge, or the shock of icy cold water, strides the ringing declaration of Maximized Manhood. A book that contains not a mere rhetorical discussion, but a head-on confrontation with the issues.This is a book that is unabashedly, uncompromisingly written to men. There are many books about us, but precious few written to us. It is a throwback to the days of man-to-man talks, male virtues, chivalry, and a respect for women and children that grew out of understanding the responsibility of being a grown man. It is a book that enables us to discover the maximum potential of our lives to live as maximized men. It is long overdue.Pungent and direct, this is a book that challenges todays man. Some may disagree with the assertions that they will want to slam the book down and quit. Others will be tempted to get off a hot letter to get Ed Cole straightened. Some men will react with some of the same precepts and principles, but be unwilling to accept its calls for sacrifice. Without any real commitment to change, nothing will happen to them. Others, though they agree at the gut level, will be intimidated by the harsh realities of now, and find many of the books positions challenged by todays popular trends. As a result, they will reject the truth in this book.There are men, however, who will read this book, agree with it, and put its dynamic principles into practice. It will revolutionize their families, their wives, and their own lives. From there, it can even revolutionize the nation.The Bible says, God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion ... And so it was.Being a male is a matter of birth, being a man is a matter of choice. Thank you, Lord, for making us who we are. Thank you, Ed, for reminding us.Chapter 1Maximum Sentence was grateful United Airlines had a nonstop from Los Angeles to Eugene, Oregon. I was wearing four different hats at the time, juggling a variety of responsibilities and spending much of my life in airports and on airplanes. I was glad I wouldnt have to connect through Portland or Reno or some such place to get to Eugene for the retreat.It was a mens retreat, the first of two that were scheduled on back-to-back weekends in the snowy mountains of west central Oregon. In between, I would dash up to Seattle and do another conference. Then, finally, a quick trip home to Southern California and Id be off again somewhere.Predaching and teaching, those lofty endeavors, were outlined in the aisle seats of so many jumbo jets. Much of my ministry preparation was done in that narrow slice of space between armrests aboard the aircraft.Now, as United carried me toward Eugene, I tried to settle my mind into a studying mode.Men.There would be more than five hundred of them in the two retreats combined. I knew that they were gathering to hear something worthwhile, something life-changing, something they could take back to their homes and their offices, their shops, and their hunting trips. They wanted something that would help them reach the maximum of their manhood, enabling them to live more Christlike than ever. The upcoming retreat was small comparison with many events where I had ministered, even in comparison with the television ministry in which I had been engaged for years. There was no reason why this trip should seem at all special.Yet there was a weightiness, a sobriety, a heavinessthat would not go away. God was doing something in my spirit. I sensed that this jaunt to Oregon to speak to men was a major milestone in my life. For weeks I had been praying for the right words to say to these men. Pictures of modern man paraded across my mind. In our society, a moral pollution is taking its toll on manhood; it is disintegrating before our eyes. I began to realize what a great need there is for men to understand what is happening and to do something about it.Things are not as God intended.The jet engines whined in the background, and my Bible and notebook were both opened on the table tray in front of me. But, in my meditation, I seemed to lose consciousness of my surroundings. Something was happening in my spirit. I was aware of the Presence of God.I recalled the teaching that Campbell McAlpine, a well-known Bible teacher, had brought to our fellowship of believers a few weeks before. The passage of Scripture he used had a powerful impact on me. It was as though it were alive, and I had been dwelling on its importance for men ever since.Campbell had spoken on First Corinthians, chapter ten. The sixth through ninth verses list the five reasons why the Israelites did not get into Canaan, the Land of Promise.It was a basic truththat God has a Land of Promise and blessing for His people. The Israelites had missed their opportunity to enter that land because of five basic sins.But for me, this Scripture had a meaning that transcended anything I had thought of before. This chronicle of sins related to Israel, but there was a direct correlation to modern man. Scripture says the Israelites were examples for us.What did it mean for men today?I looked down at my Bible. I reread the chapter in Corinthians, meditating on those five reasons for Israels failure to reach the Promised Land.The right words, right approach, right timing are so important to ministry. I wanted this message for these men on the snow-covered mountains of Oregon to be right.Here were the reasons for failure, listed in the Words of Inspiration.Tempting Christ.Murmuring.As I went through that list of sins that Campbell taught, the sin of fornication stood out. I began to think about people I had knownknow even nowwho failed to reach their Promised Land because of sex sins.Couples, men, friends, preachers, congressmen, senators, people from every walk of life. Believers and non-believers. Sinners and saints.A short time before, a friend of mine from California had approached me. You know, Ed, you really need to get hot on the subject of sexual promiscuity, he told me point blank, because its happening all over Orange County! There are people living together and not married, and still going to church and believing theyre Christians!The children of
Israel had nothing on us. We match sin for sin.Something happened at a family breakfast one morning that really jolted me. As we sat around the breakfast table, I mentioned to my wife, Nancy, and my daughter, Joann, about my growing concern for the sexual problems of modern man.They listened quietly to me, and then Joann responded with an insight from both her college life and her Christian understanding.Dad, dont you know that sex sins will be the problem of the Church in the 80s?I just looked at her. It had never occurred to me just that way. But after she said it, like a light springing up within me, I saw an instant picture of our national lifemen and women, young and old, leaders and common people alikeall across America. Then around the world. I saw it. It had been evident that the moral fiber of our nation was being weakened and even shredded on every hand. But then I saw that the Church was not immune. The mores of society were imposing themselves on the Church of Jesus Christ.So many livesall being affected by sex sins.Campbells teaching, Joanns word of wisdom, Gods Word.With United Airlines bringing me closer to my destination, and moment-by-moment nearer to my appointment, I suddenly began to write. I was aware that Gods Spirit within me was inspiring me and guiding that pen as I wrote on the page in my notebook.Finished,I looked at what I had written.The sentence was one I had never seen before.I knew I had ever said anything like it.A sentence of such pungency that I stared at it for a long time, wondering when, where, or to whom it would be given. My spirit suddenly leaped within me, for I knew it was for that night, those men, that retreat.It was too powerful for me, too bold.I began to pray for a prophet-preacher like myself, who had preached to large crowds. But nothing like this.This was God.I knew I would have to say it.When? How?Timing is everything in a situation like this. I would have to declare it. Command it.Aloud. Publicly. With authority.Andthat nightto those men at Camp Davidson, on the mountainous outskirts of Eugene, Oregon.Without Gods power it could be terriblewith Gods confirmation and vindication it could be glorious. Bringing liberty.It was for me to say. For me to command.For God to vindicate.Chapter 2Kept Out of CanaanThat evening in Oregon, in the meeting tucked away in a rustic chapel among pine trees, it came my turn to speak. I knew exactly what to do and what to say. There was no doubt. No indecision.As I stood before the unsuspecting crowd of men, I felt an accelerating sense of excitement. I had them stand with me as I led them through a confession of Jesus Christ and His Lordship, and then in a prayer of agreement, as I always do before ministering.Then, before they could sit down, I looked them in the eye and gave them Gods command.If you are here tonight and committing adultery, fornication, homosexuality, incest, or habitual masturbation; indulging in pornography; gratifying yourself with sexual fantasies or any other kind of sex sin, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to repent, and be restored to a right relationship with God the Father by being reconciled through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.The room fell silent for a split second. Those words, so awkwardly scribbled on a simple notepad a few hours before, now cut through the air like an electric shock. With a single explosive motion, the mens hands shot into the air, and they began crying out in praise and worship to God. The Holy Spirit filled that chapel in the mountains, bringing a remarkable response to a savagely honest confession. These menbusinessmen, preachers, laborers, young and oldhad craved direction. They had longed for leadership. They had sought Gods voiceo matter how stern.They had been crying out for a change in their lives, an end to questionings and wanderings. Like the hapless children of Israel, men today dream of a Promised Land, a Canaan. It is a life where problems can be solved, conflicts ended, and relationships renewed. A life of strength and sustenance.They longed for a Canaan Land.Nowright here!et me explain to you the meaning of Canaan Land and how it applies to your life.Canaan Land has always been Gods symbol of mankindso maximized potential. Canaan is the place where Gods promises are fulfilled in our lives;the place where God maximizes the potential of His people both individually and collectively. And it affects their spirits, emotions, and bodiestheir marriages, children, and professions.In the Old Testament, Canaan Land was where God wanted the Israelites to live after He delivered them from their bondage in Egypt.They were to live there in faith, and God would fulfill His promises to them.I want you to understand that Canaan is a land of promise where God wants you to live by faith today. There, He will fulfill His promises in your life. There, you can reach your maximum potential.Shangri-la was a fantasy; Canaan Land is real.Butthe Israelites failed to reach Canaan.They failed for those five basic reasons that are listed in First Corinthians, chapter ten.Those five reasons are the same reasons why men today do not get their Canaan Land fulfillment in life. God wants men to have Canaan Land marriages, businesses, parental relationships, educations. Yet, men are not maximized in their marriages, businesses, or relationships.Men with unfulfilled potential.That may be you, or someone you know.Those five basic sins still plague men today and keep them from the fulfillment of potential in their lives.Here are the big five!1) Lust.Now this lust is not necessarily sexual lustthat comes later when we deal with sex sins. This is the lust that is based on satisfying self at the expense of God and others. Its the preoccupation with what self wants. This is the satisfaction or gratification of the flesh.Love is of God, and true love is always giving. Gods love desires to satisfy the object of His love. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. God is love. Love gives.But lust wants to get. It is basically selfish.Love giveslust gets.The entire direction of life differs between the two. The Israelites craved what they had in Egypt. Their feet were taking them to Canaan, but their hearts kept going back to Egypt. They were chiefs of pleasure more than lovers of God.You can tell today whether a man or woman is lusting. They desire to satisfy themselves at the expense of others. By the same token, you can tell when they are loving, because they desire to satisfy the loved one at the expense of themselves.A man may be married but lust his wife sexually when he only cares about satisfying himself, and leaves her unfulfilled and unsatisfied. Its obvious that the young man professing love for the girl is only lusting when he satisfies himself sexually, and leaves her to face pregnancy alone and fearful.Or, a woman is lusting when she uses the credit cards to run up bills that her husband cannot pay, working a terrible hardship on the family. Professing love, she is really lusting.Corporations lust, one against the other. Even nations lust against each other.But, by now, you can make up your own list of the way people either love or lust. Lust today keeps men (and women) from maximizing their potential.2) Idolatry.Idolatry is a value system that we create, and in which we esteem something to be more worthy of our devotion than devotion to God.Power, prestige, education, money, business, religion, popularity, ego, pornographyall become idols.Some men worship at the shrine of their businesses, others at temples of recreation and sports. Still others may bow at the sound of the cash register.For some ministers, even their ministry can become an idol. They become so devoted to it that they cannot take time to worship God, wait in His presence, or spend time ministering to Him.For others, their television set has become an idol.All pornography is idolatrous. Its based upon mans ability to create a fantasy or image in his mind which satisfies him, and to which he can devote himself. I was in Phoenix and mentioned this one evening. A woman there told me that the soap operas on television had become so powerful to her that she started a fantasy sex life which sometimes would occupy her for several hours. After which, she was so weak she could not make supper for her husband. She said it was worse than alcoholism to her:Corporate life in America today has become idolatrous in many instances. Men sacrificing their families for the sake of the company.Many actors worship themselves. Anyone can do that, but more of them are susceptible to it because of the adoration their fans show them.Idolatry keeps men from being maximized in their potential. Personally, maritally, professionally, spiritually,3) Fornication.Actually this includes every kind of sex sin.Sin is still sin. No matter how you spell it.Fornication is popular and sexual promiscuity is acceptable everywhere todayexcept in the Bible. No wonder men want to burn it, deny it, or crucify it. The Word still sets the standard of faith, gives the rule of conduct, and reveals the character of God.Reading about Samson, King David, and others in Scripture is in itself a vital lesson concerning the results of sex sins. But, the roll call goes on today. Man after man, who in many areas of life develop the potential of their manhood, are limited because of their sex sins.Both single and married menyoung and oldare subject to the desires, appetites, passions, and temptations that take their toll and prohibit them from becoming what God intends them to be.Mens ministries are underdeveloped or lost.Mens characters are underdeveloped or weak.Gods promise to sit with Him on His throne is given to those called overcomers. Overcomers are godly achievers. Every man is given opportunity to enter his Canaan, to develop his potential of manhood to the maximum.When the men of Israel committed fornication, they
died in the wilderness, never seeing Canaan. Men still die in their wilderness, bogged down in a moral morass, missing Gods best for their lives.It wasnt Gods plan then or now.4) Tempting Christ.When the crowds demanded that Christ come down from the cross, they tempted Him. Tempting Christ is demanding that God do what is contrary to His will, or inconsistent with His character. Today, men still do the same by demanding that God provide some way of salvation other than the cross.Lying and cheating in business and demanding that God bless and prosper it is tempting Christ. Men and women pursuing promiscuity though knowing it is wrong, children rejecting the godly counsel of parents, congregations demanding the pastor build the church on social programs rather than the Word of God and prayer, or believers wanting to enjoy the benefits of salvation and the pleasures of sin at the same timeare all tempting Christ.It kept Israel from Canaan.Its keeping men from their Canaan today.5) Murmuring.Murmuring in its simplest form is nothing more than complaining. Complaining, criticizing, faultfinding, rumormongering, First Corinthians, chapter five speaks of murmuring. First Corinthians, chapter five speaks of murmuring. A railer, a word we dont ordinarily use today. A railer is a slanderer, a reviler, and a blasphemer. God requires us to deal with them in vengeance and discipline.However, a little fire kindleth (James 3:5)The tongue is like that. Small remarks, cutting comments, sarcastic jibes, eventually create roaring bonfires of hate, warfare, and enmity. Consuming relationships, it leaves nothing but embers.Men murmur about their company or boss at the water cooler, and then complain because they do not get promoted. They murmur against the preacher, and wonder why the children dont respond to the gospel. They murmur against Gods Word, and then complain when they dont see faith take effect in their lives.No Canaan there.When I saw these five sins, it became glaringly apparent that they are still the five root causes for men living in unfulfilled potential. They are basic to all humanity.God wants men to enter into Canaanthat place of rest, blessing, success, ability, and authoritywhere He desires them to be. However, it is obvious that men are still wandering in a wilderness, dying because of sin. Never becoming all that God intended them to be.Five basic sins.The sentence God gave me on that plane flying to the Oregon retreat was directed specifically at one of those sinformation. It was powerful and had a phenomenal result.Two hundred and sixty-five men ran toward the front of that chapel and began to repent of their sins with an earnest desire to be fulfilled in their potential as men of God. Some wept aloud.Wall to wall men standing before God. So great was the power of God that nightno one man went away untouched or unchanged.As you read this, I make the same command to you. If you are bound by any of those sex sins in your life, make this the place for repentance and restoration. Let God do the same thing in you at this very moment that He did in the hearts of those men that night. God wants you to be the person youve always wanted to be.Be a man. (Or woman, if you are reading this.)Those men are just like yousame desires, questions, problemssame reasons for an unfulfilled potential.That night I was ecstatic. I saw Gods power change men and literally saw them grow in spirit before my very eyes. It was incredibly great.But, later, I ached for the millions of others. I knew that the troubles of Twentieth Century man were not limited to this tiny group, nor to the next group to whom I would speak. I knew countless other men would never find their way to a retreat, a church service, a fellowship meeting, or a conference. And even as I prayed with those men in that little chapel in Oregon, I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to move out. To declare Gods commands across the nation, to both believing and non-believing men everywhere, in their towns, cities, and communities. It was mind-boggling.Yet-I knew God had prepared me for precisely this.Chapter 3The Playboy ProblemI have a problem, the young lady said, a little shyly.It was the close of a noon prayer meeting for the employees of a large East Coast ministry. I had just concluded a brief Bible study and dismissed the meeting when the girl drew me to one side for private prayer.What is your problem? I asked.I have a problem, she repeated obliquely.Yes, I replied, wondering if she had heard me correctly, exactly what can I agree with you in prayer concerning?Her face drew tight and tears welled up in her eyes. I dont really know, she stammered, biting her lip, but I have a real problem.I tried to be firm without being harsh. Ours is a God of specifics, not generalities, I told her. I will be happy to pray with you, but I need to know the nature of your problem so I can pray specifically. Nobody else will know, just you and me.Well, I really dont know what my problem is, she responded in a halting fashion. But my husband says I have a problem.I tried again. What does your husband say your problem is?He says I dont understand him, she finally said, agonizing over each word.What dont you understand? I asked.Suddenly, the girl began to weep, bitterly, from deep within.My husband keeps magazines by his side of the bed, she gasped quietly between sobs. Playboy, and Penthouse, and those other magazines. He says he needs to look at them before he can have sex with me. He says he needs them to stimulate him. She squeezed out the sentence, tears flowing down her face. I told him he doesnt really need those magazines, but he says I dont understand him. He says if I really loved him, then I would understand why he has to have the magazines, and I would let him get more of them.What does your husband do for a living? I inquired.Hes a youth minister. I stood there, incredulous, but more of them were susceptible to it because of the adoration their fans show them.Idolatry keeps men from being maximized in their potential. Personally, maritally, professionally, spiritually,3) Fornication.Actually this includes every kind of sex sin.Sin is still sin. No matter how you spell it.Fornication is popular and sexual promiscuity is acceptable everywhere todayexcept in the Bible. No wonder men want to burn it, deny it, or crucify it. 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